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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Detroit VA Healthcare System to Host Mental Health Summit, “A Community of Care”

Meeting aimed at uniting key stakeholders in the community with the goal of enhancing access to mental health services and addressing the mental health care needs of Veterans in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties.

(Detroit, MI) – On August 22, 2013, nearly 200 health care professionals and community leaders will gather at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit for a Mental Health Summit, “A Community of Care”.

The Summit will provide an opportunity for the Detroit VA Healthcare System to establish and enhance positive working relationships with community partners, and to nurture community engagement to better address the broad mental health care needs of Veterans and their families.

“This is an opportunity for all of us to sit at the same table, to listen and learn from each other,” said Dr. Bella Schanzer, Associate Chief of Staff, Mental Health. “We all want the same thing— for our Detroit-area Veterans and their families to be well cared for. And, we know that they cannot receive the quality, coordinated services they need if we are not talking to each other regularly and working together.”

The Summit will provide attendees with an opportunity to participate in sessions such as, “Stopping the Revolving Door: Reducing Overuse of ED and Inpatient Services”; “Identification and Treatment of Domestic Violence”; “Screening and Treatment of Sexual Trauma” and “Treatment and Management of TBI”. In total, there are 24 different topics of discussion in the breakout sessions, along with a welcome/introduction by U.S. Congressman John D. Dingell.

“It’s a fact: the majority of returning Service Members and their families are resilient to the stresses of war and successfully readjust to life after deployment,” said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director in Detroit. “But for those who need additional assistance, it’s imperative that we come together as one

community — including both public and private entities -- to provide the care and resources they need and deserve.”

The Mental Health Summit here in Detroit will be held at the medical center on **August 22, 2013**. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and opening remarks will take place at 8:30 a.m. The program runs until 3:30 p.m. and all attendees have pre-registered.

“We have many partners in our community when it comes to taking care of our Veterans and their needs,” said Dr. Schanzer. “From local nursing homes and hospitals to nearby military bases and law enforcement agencies; we want them to know that collaboration of care and sharing of resources is the best way we can care for the mental health needs of our nation’s heroes.”

The Detroit VA Healthcare System’s Mental Health Clinic serves 20,000 Veterans each year and has a staff of 140 mental health professionals. The Medical Center opened a new, state-of-the-art Outpatient Mental Health Clinic in January 2013.

Since 1939, the Detroit VAMC has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location in Detroit. The John D. Dingell VAMC located in Detroit, Michigan is one of the newest VA facilities in the country. We consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>

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